

Reflection

My encounter with the UJ ICT in Education honours course and completing its activity briefs has not only been a great learning opportunity for me but has also deepened my knowledge in many ways. I do not for one moment regret having selected this area of specialisation because, having gone through it has helped me understand the critical issues of how teaching and learning evolves with ICT, whether ICT is always the best option for teaching and learning, what are its pros and cons in the classroom and whether it is being used appropriately. This has helped me advance my skills, knowledge and qualifications in educational technologies, ICT integration, and leadership in technology integration in my school. I can now say that I have gained sufficient theoretical and conceptual knowledge of how technology can be used to enhance learning and improve learner performance. Thanks to this course that I can also do peer coaching to support my colleagues in using technology to mediate learning.

Studying this course has made me the champion of ICT advocacy in my school and in professional development meetings with colleagues from other schools in our district. I am now able to make colleagues understand the role of technology in equipping them with skills to explore new ideas, strategies and specific tools for integrating ICT into the curriculum, how to develop and apply technology based interventions designed to meet the needs of students, how to demonstrate theoretical and conceptual skills in ICT use, and how to use a range of technology applications to assess, diagnose and support learning. I attribute these achievements to the university's collaborative online teaching strategy, which has been challenging and a lot of fun. This was reinforced by the face-to-face contact sessions with the lecturer, the tutors and fellow students which facilitated rigorous thinking and collaboration.

Studying this course has also brought to me a change in attitude towards the integration of technology into education. Before taking this course, I was of the opinion that technology was distractive to learning but now all that has changed. I am now a strong supporter of not only teaching about but also teaching from and with ICT. I also wish that the training of student teachers and the continued professional development of practising teachers can produce individuals who will use ICT to add

value to teaching and learning, enhance the effectiveness of learning, make learning enjoyable and support the learners' engagement with learning.